

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. ____

Introduced by: **Brown C**

A HOUSE RESOLUTION urging the Legislative Council to direct the Mental Health Commission to study the collaboration between agencies in regards to access to medical records and mental health referrals.

Whereas, the access to medical care for those who are incarcerated is fundamental; it is essential that state and local agencies work together to provide access to medical records, as well as a seamless transition from the community to jails; from jails to prison; and from prisons to community health providers; and

Whereas, collaboration from state agencies who provide mental health treatment are deemed a vital service. It is imperative that the referral process from state correctional institutions for those who have severe mental health deficiencies to the Department of Mental Health and Addictions (DMHA), works effectively in the best interest of individuals who have the severe mental illness; and



Whereas, the State Department of Health is regulated to monitor and inspect the Department of Correction's institutional operations for health and safety and seems to be a duplication of services, which are conducted by individuals with little correctional expertise; therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. That the Legislative Council is urged to direct the Mental Health Commission to study the processes of state and local agencies to provide medical records of those held in custody of local and state penal facilities.

SECTION 2. That, if so directed, the Mental Health Commission should consider at least the following issues:

(1) Whether records from the community to jails, from jails to prison and from prison back to the community are being transferred in the best possible manner.

(2) Whether the current process for mentally ill referrals from the Department of Corrections to the Department of Mental Health and Addictions (DMHA) is effective and assists the Department of Correction in removing those individuals who cannot function in a correctional setting.

(3) Whether the Department of Health's requirement to monitor the health and safety of a correctional institution is a duplication of state services and conducted by individuals who have little to no correctional expertise.

SECTION 3. That the committee, if directed to study this issue shall operated under the direction of the Legislative Council and that the committee shall issue a final report when directed to do so by the council.

